

Remarks

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-12 are pending in this application. Claim 4 has been cancelled as redundant in view of the amendments to claim 3. Claim 9 has been cancelled as redundant in view of the amendments to claim 1. Claim 12 is cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue subject matter affected by the foregoing amendments in later-filed continuation applications. Accordingly, upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, and 11 will be before the Examiner for consideration.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-12 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as lacking enablement. Applicants assert that the amendments to claims obviate this rejection. On page 3 of the Office action, the Examiner indicates that the specification teaches the pentapeptide GVGVP and VPGVG. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite that the pentapeptide is GVGVP. Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the pentapeptide is VPGVG. Furthermore, the word 'synthetic' has been removed from the claims. In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as lacking written description. Applicants assert that the amendments to the claims obviate this rejection and reiterate their remarks made in response to the enablement rejection above. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 8 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as lacking written description. Applicants assert that the amendments to the claims obviate this rejection. Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite that the pentapeptide is GVGVP, and the Examiner recognizes that the specification provides support for such pentapeptide. Claim 8 has been

amended to recite that the GVGVP pentapeptide comprises 121 repeats, which the Examiner has also indicated is fully supported by the specification. In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

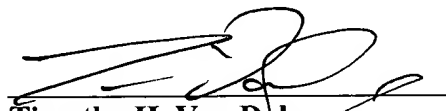
The rejection of claim 12 is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claim 12.

Applicant submits that this amendment has addressed all outstanding issues so as to put this patent application in condition for allowance. As no issues remain outstanding, Applicants respectfully request that a notice of allowance ensue.

Respectfully submitted,

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